

Appl. No. 09/607,412

Amdt. Dated 8/8/04

Reply to Office Action of June 08, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 8, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for his examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note that the Examiner has objected to claims 12-14 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 12 has been placed into independent form by including limitations from claims 1, 2 and 9. Allowance of independent claim 12 and claims 3-8, 10-11, 13-16, 18-19 and 27 now dependent on claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11, 15-36, 38-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (JP11298470A) in view of Schneier (Applied Cryptography). Claims 1-2, 9, 17, 20-26 and 28-41 have been cancelled without prejudice so that no further discussion as to the grounds for traversing the §103(a) rejection is warranted. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and reserves the right to prosecute these and other claims in a continuation application.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/29/04

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Date: 7/29/04


Susan McFarlane
Date 7/29/04